

**Meal Pattern Requirements for Infants 8 through 11 Months
in the Child Nutrition Programs**

Purpose:

This instruction sets forth the policy to clarify the meal pattern for lunches and suppers served to infants 8 through 11 months of age.

Scope:

Sponsors participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and/or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Description:

USDA Food and Nutrition Service received questions about the appropriate number of components that fulfill the meal pattern for lunches and suppers served to infants 8 through 11 months of age. This policy clarifies that, for this age group of infants, a reimbursable lunch or supper has three components. A reimbursable lunch or supper must include:

(1) Fluid Milk: 6 to 8 fluid ounces of breast milk, or iron-fortified infant formula, or both

(2) Cereal, or "Meat/Meat Alternate," or both:

2 to 4 tablespoons of iron-fortified dry infant cereal

or

1 to 4 tablespoons of meat, or

1 to 4 tablespoons of fish, or

1 to 4 tablespoons of poultry, or

1 to 4 tablespoons of egg yolk, or

1 to 4 tablespoons of cooked dry beans, or

1 to 4 tablespoons of cooked dry peas, or

½ to 2 ounces (weight) of cheese, or

1 to 4 ounces (volume) of cottage cheese, or

1 to 4 ounces (weight) of cheese food

or

appropriate quantities (as listed above) of cereal and meat/meat alternate

(3) Fruit or Vegetable: 1 to 4 tablespoons of fruit, or vegetable, or both

SOURCE: SECTIONS 226.20(B)(5)(III)(B) AND 210.10(O)(5)(III)(B), AND THE ACCOMPANYING TABLES IN SECTIONS 226.20(B)(6) AND 210.10(O)(6). USDA, FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY MEMORANDUM #05-07, DATED, DECEMBER 28, 2004.